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## VERMONT SCHOOLS GEARING UP FOR THE HOUR OF CODE

### Colchester High School Wins \$10,000 for Teaching Kids How to Code

MONTPELIER – Vermont schools are gearing up to teach a variety of skills related to programming code next week. Governor Shumlin has proclaimed December 9-15, 2013 *Computer Science Education Week* in Vermont and encouraged schools to participate in the national *Hour of Code* event.

Governor Shumlin's proclamation emphasizes the importance of an applied Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) approach in order to prepare students for college and jobs of the future.

"Using technology is a necessity for all of us, especially our students," said Secretary of Education Armando Vilaseca. "This week-long event provides our students and our schools an opportunity to showcase their talents and their work."

The Agency is rallying schools to register ([csedweek.org](http://csedweek.org)) and to post agendas and planned activities to their school websites. Locally, educators are offering *Hour of Code* challenges designed for Vermont students to join at all grade levels (K-12). Schools can find out how to contribute to the Vermont gallery of *Hour of Code* or participate in code challenges specifically designed for Vermont students by Vermont educators here: [www.ConnectedVoices.org](http://www.ConnectedVoices.org).

750 students at Colchester High School (CHS) are joining in on the largest education event in history: *Hour of Code*. Every student will spend an hour learning computer science, doing online tutorials featuring Mark Zuckerberg, Khan Academy and Angry Birds. Based on the plan CHS submitted to [Code.org](http://Code.org), they will receive \$10,000 worth of computer hardware and accessories.

Schools are encouraged to register their classrooms and the number of students participating in activities during Science Education Week (Dec. 9-15) at [csedweek.org](http://csedweek.org). Computer Science Education Week is an annual program dedicated to showing K-12 students the importance of computer science education. The *Hour of Code* is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code" and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, a creator, an innovator. Visit [Code.org](http://Code.org) for inspiration.

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